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INFO WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE
RHMFIUU/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

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STATE PASS TO USAID/LAC

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM KWMN PREL KPAO
SUBJECT: NICARAGUA: NOMINATION FOR THE SECRETARY'S AWARD FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF COURAGE

REF: STATE 111471; MANAGUA 1103; MANAGUA 1049

1. (U) Embassy Managua is please to nominate Leonor Martinez for the Secretary's Award for International Women of Courage, per ref A.
2. (U) Full Name of Nominee: Leonor del Socorro Martinez Valverde
3. (U) Job Title and Institution: Teacher, currently unemployed; Youth Activist in the Civil Coordinator movement, an NGO that coordinates Nic
4. (SBU) Date of Birth: January 8, 1984
5. (U) Country of Birth: Nicaragua
6. (U) Citizenship: Nicaragua
7. (SBU) Contact Information: 505-8431-8370
8. (SBU) Passport number: none
9. (U) Languages: Spanish
10. (U) Justification: Leonor Martinez is a young Nicaraguan woman who courageously suffered torture and death threats as a consequence of her strong opposition to government efforts to restrict democratic liberties. She publicly denounced the violence perpetrated against her by a group of government-supported thugs. As a young leader in Nicaragua's fragile civil society, her courage in the face of severe physical, emotional and financial threats is helping create the new fault lines in the political battle of her generation - preserving Nicaragua's democracy through civil protests and confronting the culture of violence against women.
11. (U) On October 22, Leonor Martinez was brutally assaulted by supporters of the current government (see ref C). Ms. Martinez is an activist
12. (U) Ms. Martinez, joined by another brave Nicaraguan woman and defender of human rights, Dr. Vilma Nunez, valiantly gave a press conference the next day outside the hospital where she later received emergency surgery to set the bone in her broken arm. During the press conference, Ms. Martinez, through tears of pain and anger, recounted the details of her attack of the previous day, despite threats of more violence against her and her family by her attackers. Ms. Martinez is a symbol of the struggle for freedom against the political violence that continues to increase in Nicaragua. In fact, since the attack, Ms. Martinez has become a focal point for the Nicaraguan human rights community and has taken a prominent role in leading other civic actions, including the November 21 opposition march (see ref B).
13. (U) Embassy Managua's POC for women's issues is PolOff Michael Garcia, tel 505-2252-7405, and email is garciam4@state.gov
CALLAHAN